

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HUD-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 EA-12 FRB-01 INR-10 IO-14 NEA-10
NSAE-00 ICA-20 OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04
SIL-01 AGRE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 EPA-04 CEQ-01 OES-09
/139 W

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P 122037Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4732

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 22175

USOECD

FOR EUR/RPE/LAASE, DAMERON; OES/KING; PASS HUD/DE HAN
COCK

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: SENV, OECD, FR

SUBJECT: OECD URBAN CONCERNS INITIATIVE - COUNCIL
MEETING JULY 12

REFS. (A) C(78)50 AND C(78)L0L; (B) STATE L60538;
(C) STATE L64596; (D) PARIS L9560; (E) PARIS 2L73L;
(F) LAASE/PACKER TELECON JULY LL.

1. SUMMARY: THE OECD COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED ESTABLISHMENT OF AD HOC MEETING ON URBAN CONCERNS UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF DEPUTY SEC GEN ELDIN. SPECIFIC MENTION WAS MADE BY ELDIN AND U.S. AMBASSADOR OF NEED FOR SEVERAL SESSIONS OF MEETING, THESE COMMENTS TO APPEAR IN MINUTES OF MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FROM SECRETARY GENERAL, MR. ELDIN INTRODUCED SUBJECT WITH A CHRONOLOGICAL RE-UNCLASSIFIED

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VIEW, CITING U.S. PAPER REF (A), LENGTHY COUNCIL DISCUSSION ON JUNE 8 REF (D) AND SUBSEQUENT INFORMAL NEGOTIATIONS TO PRODUCE AN ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE REFS (E) AND (F). HE MENTIONED AND REFUTED THE CONCERNS OF CERTAIN DELEGATIONS REGARDING OVERLAP OF EXISTING FUNCTIONS, PROLIFERATION OF AD HOC ACTIVITIES, AND MANDATE OF AD HOC MEETING. ELDIN THEN OUTLINED MODIFICATION OF

TEXT BY SUBSTITUTION OF "AD HOC MEETING" FOR "AD HOC GROUP, EMPHASIZING THE NEED FOR SEVERAL SESSIONS OF MEETING TO DO THE ASSIGNED WORK AND SUBMIT REPORT BY APRIL 30, 1979. HE SUGGESTED THAT FIRST MEETING SERVE TO GET ORGANIZED AND DEVELOP DETAILED DEFINITION AND SCHEDULE OF PROJECT. SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS WOULD CARRY THE WORK FORWARD AND PREPARE REPORT TO COUNCIL.

3. SECRETARIAT THEN DISTRIBUTED NEW TEXT OF COUNCIL MINUTES DRAFT ENTRY, WHICH, AFTER MINOR CHANGES, READS:

"THE COUNCIL:

(A) NOTED THE NOTE BY THE U.S. DELEGATION ON URBAN CONCERNS C(78)50.

(B) NOTED THE NOTE BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL THEREON C(78)101.

(C) DECIDED THAT AN AD HOC MEETING OF GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES BE CONVENED UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF A DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL TO REVIEW THE MATTERS SET OUT IN THE NOTE BY THE U.S. DELEGATION WITH A VIEW TO REPORTING BEFORE APRIL 30, 1979 FOR POSSIBLE ACTION BY THE ORGANIZATION, FOR CONSIDERATION AND FURTHER DECISION BY THE COUNCIL.

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4. THE NETHERLANDS, CANADA, AUSTRIA, AUSTRALIA, JAPAN AND SWITZERLAND EXPRESSED UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT. AUSTRALIA ALSO SUGGESTED THREE CLARIFYING MODIFICATIONS

TO TEXT WHICH WERE ACCEPTED. GREECE ARGUED THAT HIGH LEVEL AD HOC GROUPS DEPRIVE COUNCIL OF ITS AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY, ENCOURAGE CONFORMITY, AND WEAKEN EXISTING ACTIVITIES, BUT AGREED NOT TO OPPOSE DECISION. TURKEY ECHOED GREEK SENTIMENTS. FRANCE AGREED WITH PARA (C) OF DRAFT ENTRY, BUT NOTED THAT PARAS (A) AND (B) ARE NOT BINDING SINCE COUNCIL MERELY NOTES THE TWO DOCUMENTS MENTIONED BUT DOES NOT MAKE COMMITMENT TO THEIR CONTENTS. FRENCH DEL DID NOT MENTION NEED FOR SEVERAL SESSIONS OF AD HOC MEETING, AS PROMISED BY MFA OFFICIAL TO MISSION SCICOUNS, REF (F).

5. U.S. AMBASSADOR NOTED THE COMMENTS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL AND ACCEPTED THE SECRETARIAT'S POSITION BASED ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE AD HOC MEETING WILL MEET AS OFTEN AS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH ITS PURPOSE AND IS EXPECTED TO REPORT ITS FINDINGS BY APRIL 30, 1979. WITH NO OPPOSITION, DRAFT UNCLASSIFIED

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ENTRY WAS DECLARED APPROVED BY SECRETARY GENERAL.

6. ALTHOUGH MENTION OF SEVERAL SESSIONS DOES NOT APPEAR IN WORDING OF SECRETARIAT DOCUMENTS OR COUNCIL DECISION, REMARKS OF ELDIN AND U.S. STATEMENT WILL BE REPORTED IN MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING. SECRETARIAT WILL ISSUE INVITATIONS SOON TO COUNTRIES TO ATTEND FIRST SESSION IN THE EARLY FALL. FRENCH HAVE ASSURED SECRETARIAT AND MISSION THAT THEY WILL NOT OPPOSE ADDITIONAL SESSIONS AS REQUIRED.
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